Subsidy to sugarcane producers by USA and EU

†*391. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that America and other European countries grant subsidy to sugarcane producers;

(b) if so, the average annual subsidy reported to have been granted by the said countries during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that World Trade Organisation has declared such subsidy as illegal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether such subsidy has since been discontinued by these countries after the decision of the World Trade Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Average annual subsidy granted by U.S.A. and European Community only to their sugarcane producers cannot be specified because neither have notified to the World Trade Organisation any product-specific support granted by them. Morever, from their notifications on domestic support granted under various non-product-specific programmes, implicit allocations to sugarcane growers cannot be determined. Subsidies provided on sugar are indicated in the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) Australia, Brazil and Thailand have invoked the dispute settlements provisions of the WTO agreements challenging various programmes in the EC towards providing export subsidies on sugar and incorporated products. India is an interested third party to these proceedings. The dispute settlement process is still not complete.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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Statement

Sugarcane producers by USA and other European countries

In respect of sugar which is processed from domestically grown sugarcane or sugar beets, product-specific AMS last notified by U.S.A. was US $ 1,207 million in 1999, US $ 1,177 million in 2000, and US $ 1,061 million in 2001. Product-specific AMS on white sugar on a marketing year basis notified by the EC was US $ 5,317 million in 1998-99, US $ 5,787 million in 1999-2000, and US $ 5,838 million in 2000-01. Notified export subsidies on sugar by the EC were US $ 727 million in 1998-99, US $ 472 million in 1999-2000, and US $ 329 million in 2000-01. The US has notified that it does not subsidize sugar exports.

Supply of desalinated water

*392. DR.ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ever worked out the cost of desalinated water supply as drinking water in urban and coastal cities to meet the shortage;

(b) whether Government would undertake the desalination process to ensure year round supply of drinking water to such cities and towns;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when; and

(d) the cities selected for setting up of such plants?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Ministry of Urban Development has not worked out the cost of desalinated drinking water.

(b) and (c) There is a proposal to set up a desalination plant near Chennai in the State sector through public-private partnership. More such plants are also proposed along the Coromondal coast.

(d) The Government of Tamil Nadu has identified Chennai, Ramanathapuram and Keelakarai for desalination plants. Other States along the Coromondal coast *viz* Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Union Territory of Pondicherry have so far not furnished the list of cities selected for setting up of desalination plants.